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## **Subject: The Militia**

Due to the recent events concerning the militia in Georgia, Arizona, Washington, Florida, and now West Virginia, it should be self-evident that a course correction must be considered for certain elements of this movement.

Some would say that we should just "stay the course", and keep moving forward. But many are now openly claiming that this same policy may be, in part, what is causing the attacks on these units. Some even believe that we should "stand down".

The "leadership" of the militia movement must share much of the blame for remaining silent while the political climate in which this movement operated changed dramatically. Many of us saw the internal problems within the militia, but we chose not to publicly address these issues in order to present a presumption of unity.

Prior to April 19, 1995, the militia, as a whole, had just begun to network itself throughout the nation. Events in Idaho and Texas woke many Americans up, and a newly elected congress gave us hope that victory was on the horizon.

But the in-fighting had already begun. We failed to put principles before personalities. We obtained our rank and "titles of nobility" from the military surplus stores... and the press (Veterans excluded). We attempted to structure ourselves as a conventional army, but failed to establish a financial support base, and an alternative network of communication. Although our goal was clear (preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights), we could not develop a national consensus on what was needed most: a method of implementation.

The concept that drives this movement may be its greatest hindrance. The modern-day militia was created from a healthy, justifiable fear of government. It is the fear of losing our rights as individuals that keeps us "individual" by nature, thus making it difficult to agree on almost anything.

After April 19, 1995, the militia movement was forced to defend itself on the battlefield of public opinion. Media coverage that had previously not been available (at any price), was suddenly at all of our doorsteps. Although we avoided a mass physical confrontation, we were unwittingly already at war.

Many of us simply were not prepared to handle the large number of Americans who didn't believe the Oklahoma lies, and wanted to sign up. While the increase in

participation was welcome, we were too preoccupied with "justifying and defending our own existence" to concern ourselves with quality recruitment . . . numbers were everything.

Defending our position wasn't easy. For a while, there was unity of purpose, but to some degree, defending ourselves against OKC depleted resources needed for our primary purpose. In my opinion, the desire for a kinder, gentler militia paved the way for the rise of the Common Law movement.

Although the Common Law activists effectively exposed the corruption in the judicial system of this nation, it [with] drew its base of support from the militia, reducing the number of active militia personnel, and compromising the resolve of the militia overall. This evidence came to bear with the murder of Chaplain Mike Hill in Ohio. Many in the militia stated that Hill's fellow travelers should have taken a more direct action toward defending their friend. Instead, the result was depositions, followed by lack of justice. Many of us were convinced we could secure our liberties via the seventh amendment. Today, there are many incarcerated militia members questioning the wisdom of a common law defense in a statutory court, which operates under a code of military justice.

As political divisions and personality conflicts increased, we allowed ourselves to be compromised and infiltrated by our own shortcomings. Our drive for increased participation caused us to seek quantity, rather than quality of membership. We continued fighting off the negative stereotypes, while preparing for an enemy who had already advanced into our position, and caused us to use our most effective weapons ... against ourselves.

Much of the militia "leadership" (myself included) had full knowledge of these problems. But we chose to remain silent out of fear of character assassinations, loss of support, or exposing our weaknesses to the opposition. Many of the "leaders" had depleted their personal resources on providing information and defending this movement. We became financially dependent on those who profited from "fear-mongering", and the grassroots support of the militia movement. Few of us chose poverty over compromising our integrity.

We had to pay the bills. It was more important to sell our wares at trade shows, maintain an audience via newsletters, short-wave, satellite, etc. than it was to admit that this movement may be headed for self- destruction. Although the militia needed leadership, we didn't want leaders, we wanted cheerleaders ... and that's exactly what we got.

Aside from a few victories, we have been psychologically disarmed. In the eyes of the public (and many patriots) from which we hope to draw our support, the militia has gone from being a "constitutional safety net", to the "excuse" for congress to pass more bad legislation, and we have provided a safe environment for domestic state-sponsored terrorists. While continuing to preach unity, justice, doom and gloom, pointing the blame at government, and not "practicing what we preached", we have become the modern-day "tele-evangelists".

Harsh reality, isn't it? It hurts to say many of these things, but to repair the damage, and establish a more solid foundation, we must first clear away the rubble. Although no malice is intended toward any militia member, I fully expect an onslaught of character assassinations from within my own ranks. But the operational security and unit integrity of the militia movement must no longer be compromised. Covering up our mistakes make us no better than the bureaucracy we're fighting against.

## **THE TRUTH**

... It is the nature of an oppressive government to legislate any means of lawfully defending one's self against such oppression out of existence....

That is ... The discussion of making lawful contingency plans for one's personal defense, once tolerated by government, is now considered suspect, if not illegal.

As we prepare to battle against enemies foreign and domestic, let us recognize that the domestic enemy NOW has his foot in our door, his hand in our pocket, and his gun in our face. Each militia member must face this reality, and understand that at any moment (especially on the road) your freedom (or your life) can disappear, even though you are innocent. Once you fully comprehend this unsavory truth, make sure your loved ones understand it as well.

The ever increasing burden of unconstitutional legislation, executive orders, and corrupt justice will make us criminals, by the stroke of a pen. Although we haven't broken any law, we have already been indicted by the press.

Dropping out, or keeping a low profile won't work. Your existence is still a threat to your opposition. You're already on a "list". There's already a "sting operation" and/or a "bogus" charge with your name on it. You, the militia, may well be all that stands in the way of total tyranny.

There is no need to prepare for war. There is no need to avoid war. We are at war. We didn't declare it, it was declared on us. Not like Desert Storm, Vietnam, or WW II, but political, psychological, economic, and yes, spiritual warfare. Until recently, our

enemy's greatest advantage was the fact that we didn't even know it. Like other wars, there are casualties. Not just those in jail (P.O.W's), but their families whose lives have been devastated as well. M.I.A.'s refugees, and even the dead bodies of patriots are mounting . . . but where do we draw the line?

## **MY OPINIONS**

Each person must decide, based on his own conscience and conviction where they will draw the line. Your opposition has already drawn theirs.

Before we can defend this nation against tyranny, we must be able to defend ourselves and our loved ones. Each militia member must know how to conduct themselves properly when confronting the opposition in order to avoid a unnecessary engagement. To put it simply... Don't give 'em a reason.

## **UNIT INTEGRITY**

The dedication of many in this movement has put an undue burden on their families. Although many units have adopted a military-like command and control structure, militia members have made too many domestic sacrifices to insure such order. On several occasions, units have had to scramble to salvage items of a fellow member due to "domestic problems".

1996 has taught the Johnson family a hard lesson: Let the unit insignia of the "unorganized militia" be determine by Last Name, i.e., the family must be the basic "unit cell" that networks with other "units" to form an effective Constitutional fighting force. If your spouse is not as active as you, either bring them (and the children, if possible) to the meeting with you, or take a step back, and focus on the home-front for a while. Just exactly who are you REALLY willing to fight and die for, anyway?

This philosophy may not bode well with already existing units, but a sound, stable home is the best defense against an unconstitutional government. A strong family unit also makes for a safer house for fellow travelers who may be forced into exile, after making the moral decision to defend their lawful, God given rights. Units who organize under this concept will soon stand out among the others.

We must also strive to support our fallen brethren and their families, regardless of our personal differences. We are ALL innocent until proven otherwise. The day may come when we find ourselves in the same predicament.

## **NETWORKING**

The word 'militia' means, citizen soldier. Citizen first, soldier when necessary. To avoid past mistakes, we must come to the realization that a communication network is not a "policy making network". We don't have to agree on ideology, just agree to what, when, where, and how to communicate. I have been to enough state-wide gatherings (in several states) to know that we need some form of written guidelines for conduct, due to our very nature. We also need elected officers to administrate these rules. In the absence of cohesion . . . nothing is accomplished and communications break down.

However, the authority of these guidelines and administrative officers should only be in effect between the opening and closing prayer of these communication networking meetings, leaving the individual states, counties, and units to organize and conduct themselves autonomously.

In any type of networking, all information (SITREPs, SALUTE reports, etc.) should be sourced and documented. Information not meeting this criteria should be discarded or treated as rumor.

In order to achieve our common goal (restoration of Constitutional governance), we must have good intelligence (information). That's what communication networks are created for. With all the differences we have, we still must recognize that we live on the same piece of dirt, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. We have to fight on and for the same . . . TOGETHER. No more casualties from 'friendly fire' (character assassinations) can be tolerated. Time is too short.

## **OPERATIONAL SECURITY**

Units should use recent federal operations against the collective militia as a learning tool. To avoid being caught up in a federal trolling net, create and implement an effective alternative network of communication. The Constitutional militia is defensive in nature. Persons who advocate preemptive military assaults; procurement, sale, or manufacture of illegal ordinance; acts of treason; or other unlawful behavior, should be dismissed as provocateurs, whether they are on the government payroll or not. Evidence has shown they are NOT patriots. They are NOT leaders.

As we gather intelligence, we should discuss lawful countermeasures for securing the home-front first. Most confrontations by the opposition occur either in the home or on the road. We must also gather as much information about operatives of the opposition as they have gathered about us. Remember: Never take any action that you cannot defend in court. Pray for the best; plan for the worst.

Recognizing our opposition's goal to totally control our lives, families should develop a program of self-sufficiency. Alternative medicine, alternative energy, and home schooling are just some examples of regaining control of our own lives.

## **CONCLUSION**

I don't have all the answers. My goal is to address an issue that many others can't (or won't). I encourage comments from others, pro or con. As enforcement actions against individuals and units escalate, we are all affected. No more declarations. No more "sabre rattling". GOD and FAMILY are the only tools this COUNTRY needs. The steps for Constitutional restoration are clearly outlined in our Bill Of Rights. It's time to "roll up our sleeves and get down to business". Leaders must lead by example. To effectively wage battle, I firmly believe NOW is the time for the militia to aggressively conduct reconnaissance on our most dangerous enemy...  
...and start by looking in the mirror.

**J.J. Johnson** -- October 16, 1996